

# Saving Planet Earth

الحفاظ على الأرض  
کرہ ارض کی دیکھ بھال

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Allah swt says:

إِنَّ فِي اخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَمَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَّقُونَ-

Surely in the alternation of the day and the night, and in all that Allah has created in the heavens and the earth, there are truly signs for those mindful 'of Him'. [Qur'an: 10:6]

**Dear Listeners:**

Indeed, the Earth has been given to us as a trust from our Lord, and as a responsibility to cultivate and construct and settle upon in a way that demonstrates our concern for preserving its blessings. Hence Allah says:

هُوَ أَنشَأَكُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا

He has produced you from the earth and settled you in it.

[Qur'an: 11:61]

So, from the obligations and duty upon us with regards to the Earth is to take care of it, to maintain its clean and green environment, to do our best to invest in its blessings and further develop its prosperity for ourselves and future generations. Hence, Allah says:

وَالْأَرْضَ وَضَعَهَا لِلْأَنَامِ \* فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَالنَّخْلُ ذَاتُ الْأَكْمَامِ- وَالْحَبُّ ذُو الْعَصْفِ وَالرَّيْحَانُ-



He laid out the earth for all beings. In it are fruit, palm trees with date stalks and grain with husks, and aromatic plants. [Qur'an: 55:10-12]

Similarly, Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, forbade us to spoil the resources of the earth, or to squander it, or waste its blessings. Hence, Allah says:

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا، ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ-

And don't spread corruption in the land after its reformation. This is for your own good, if you 'truly' believe. [Qur'an: 7:85]

Allah has forbidden waste and extravagance when He says:

وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ

But be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess. [Qur'an: 7:31]

This is our duty towards the earth to protect its resources and make good use of its blessings. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) ordered us to be moderate and economical in the consumption of water and do not waste it even if it appears to be a large amount and readily available such as a running river. Whether it be small or large, we should always seek to preserve it for future generations as water is a blessing which keeps us alive. It is a source of our existence. As Allah says:

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ

And [We] made from water every living thing.  
[Qur'an: 21:30]

Just as we are tasked to preserve water, we are also tasked to maintain air and its purity, this means we should abstain from everything that pollutes it such as harmful



emissions and other such substances. In addition to air and water, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) tasked us to take care of the animal and plants to preserve life and green environment on earth, alluding to the reward in looking after them. Our beloved Prophet said:

مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَغْرِسُ غَرْسًا، أَوْ يَزْرَعُ زَرْعًا، فَيَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ طَيْرٌ أَوْ إِنْسَانٌ أَوْ بَهِيمَةٌ، إِلَّا كَانَ لَهُ بِهِ صَدَقَةٌ۔

**When a Muslim plants a tree or grows/cultivate a crop and then a bird, or a human, or an animal eats from it will be counted as a charity for him. [Bukhari and Muslim]**

Indeed, this earth has been created by Allah as a manifestation of His omnipotent power (*Qudrat*), and He has animated it and brought it into life through His wisdom (*Hikmah*). He has placed within its resources for mankind, such that their livelihoods can be supported and continue. So, Allah says:

وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَّاكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعَايِشَ۔

**And We have certainly established you upon the earth and made for you means of livelihood.**

[Qur'an: 7:10]

Allah has facilitated everything that is on earth for the service of mankind and their ease, being the means by which human beings can attain unto their potential and bliss. Hence, Allah says:

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا

**He is the One Who created everything in the earth for you.**

[Qur'an: 2:29]

Everything on earth has been put in a place of balance, with the proportioning and interconnected relationships established by His wisdom ensuring that everything has a



purpose and mission to fulfil. If we examine creation, we will see that everything brings about some benefit with a purpose, balance, within which there is nothing that is excessive or lacking. For this reason, our Lord, the Most Merciful, Al-Rahman says:

وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَوْزُونٍ-

And [We] caused to grow therein [something] of every well-balanced thing. [Qur'an: 15:19]

Hence, part of our responsibility is to maintain this balance, set into place by our Lord, for He is the One who placed it for us on earth, whilst giving us the authority and responsibility to maintain it. The earth is our home, it is the cradle for future generations, what would you say to someone who destroys their home in pursuit of temporary pleasures? Let us be wise and honour what we have been entrusted with, let us not be of those who the earth itself testifies against as having wasted and destroyed its resources, let us be of those who are grateful – who preserved its blessings.

**Islamic environmental ethics** are based on the following principles: Responsibility (Amanah), Balance (Mizan) and Justice (Adl), Cleanliness (Nizafah). Human authority and guardianship on earth.

Allah swt says:

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ خَلَائِفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ لِنَنْظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ-

Thus, We have made you trustees on the earth after them, to see how you would act. [Qur'an 10:14]

With the task of stewardship, Allah both honours and tests man. If human beings are allowed to make use of nature on the one hand, then on the other hand they are responsible



for the balanced and sustainable use of it. For nothing is in man's possession; rather, he rules over the entrusted property that Allah has placed at his disposal.

Allah swt says:

إِنَّا عَرَضْنَا الْأَمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ فَأَبَيْنَ أَنْ يَحْمِلْنَهَا وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَ  
حَمَلَهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا-

Verily we offered the entrusted property (Amanah) to the Heavens and the Earth and the Mountains; but they refused to undertake it, being afraid thereof: but man undertook it; - He was indeed unjust and unaware of the consequences<sup>7</sup>. [Quran 33:72]

The principle of the Amanah is that the earth has been entrusted to man and it must be cared for and protected accordingly. As such, he has the task of cultivating the earth sustainably and maintaining ecological balance. Allah created a perfectly balanced world on the basis of sustainability and circularity. This balance must be maintained by man acting moderately, wisely and justly. Waste, pollution and destruction are the things that Allah abhors.

وَمَا اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ ظُلْمًا لِّلْعَالَمِينَ-

...and Allah does not intend to do injustice to (anyone in) the worlds.” [Qur'an 3:108]

According to Islam, the Creator is, undoubtedly and without exception, just in His work. Injustice towards creation, on the other hand, undoubtedly emanates from man. Therefore, dealing with the environment is always a question of justice.

Our Prophet (Peace be upon him) Said:



إِنَّ الدُّنْيَا حُلْوَةٌ خَضِرَةٌ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مُسْتَخْلِفُكُمْ فِيهَا فَيَنْظُرُ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ-

The world is sweet and green, and verily Allah is going to install you as a trustee in it in order to see how you act.

(Muslim)

Based on this hadith, Prophet s.a.w. showed much care and concern towards the environment and aimed at caring and protecting it wholeheartedly.

It is reported that people asked the Prophet about the rewards of serving animals. The Prophet then replied,

فِي كُلِّ كَبِدٍ رَطْبَةٌ أَجْرٌ

There is a reward for serving any living being. (Bukhari)

The reply of the Prophet tells us how important it is to serve and care for the living beings on Earth - animals included.

Taking care of the wellbeing of the creations of Allah affects the state of the environment as it ensures the welfare of the living beings to carry out their crucial responsibilities for the world we live in. Not only do we seek the rewards, but we also seek a peaceful, balanced, and healthy co-existence for the environment of our time and for the future generations to come.

The Prophet said:

بَيْنَمَا رَجُلٌ يَمْشِي بِطَرِيقٍ، وَجَدَ غُصْنَ شَوْكٍ فَأَخَذَهُ، فَشَكَرَ اللَّهَ لَهُ، فَغَفَرَ لَهُ-

While a man was walking along a path, he found a thorny branch of a tree on the way and removed it. Allah swts. appreciated his effort and forgave him. (Bukhari)

In this Hadith the Prophet emphasises the importance of removing whatever deems to be harmful for the environment. Anything which is among environmental hazards, litter and debris etc should be removed. This



could be done through small efforts of awareness, showing by example, and making it a priority for everyone.

So, we need to take account of and be grateful for the blessings that Allah has given us on Earth, honouring and treating them to the degree they deserve to be honoured. In this regard we should mutually strive and cooperate to ensure that its blessings and goodness remains and can continue to be enjoyed by future generations. This is actually a right of future generations upon us, and we will be held accountable to the degree we fulfil our rights to them and others.

**Dua:**

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي خَيْرَاتِ الْأَرْضِ، وَاجْعَلْنَا فِي الْحِفَاطِ عَلَيْهَا مُسْتَمِرِّينَ، وَعَلَى تَطْوِيرِهَا  
مُتَعَاوِنِينَ

So, we ask Allah that He bless the earth, that He increase its goodness, and that He make us the means of preserving its blessings for others.

O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his noble family and upon all his companions.

**I conclude my sermon with following verse of the Qur'an:**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ ۖ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O You who have faith! Be mindful of Allah and let every soul look to what 'deeds' it has sent forth for tomorrow. And fear Allah, 'for' certainly Allah is All-Aware of what you do.

[Qur'an: 59:18]

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.



I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so  
seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving,  
most Merciful.

وَأَخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ